



**2019-2020 Charter School Program High Quality Replication Grant**  
COMPETITIVE GRANT Application Due 5:00 p.m. CT, April 30, 2019

NOGA ID

Authorizing Legislation

**P.L. 114-95, ESEA, as amended by ESSA, Title IV, Part C; TEC, Chapter 12; TAC, Chapter 100, Subchapter AA**

Applicants must submit one original copy of the application and two copies of the application (for a **total of three copies of the application**). All three copies of the application **MUST** bear the signature of a person authorized to bind the applicant to a contractual agreement. **Applications cannot be emailed.** Applications must be received no later than the above-listed application due date and time at:

Document Control Center, Grants Administration Division  
Texas Education Agency  
1701 N. Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78701-1494

Application stamp-in date and time

RECEIVED  
TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY  
APR 29 2019  
11:59 AM  
DOCUMENT CONTROL CENTER

yp 4-29-19

Grant period from **July 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020**

☒ Pre-award costs are not permitted.

**Required Attachments**

1. Federal Definition of a Public Charter School
2. Documentation of Authorization to Charter
3. Board of Trustees Approval
4. Narrative Description from Superintendent

**Amendment Number**

Amendment Number (For amendments only; enter N/A when completing this form to apply for grant funds): **N/A**

**Applicant Information**

Organization **Aristoi Classical Academy** CDN **101803** Vendor ID **TBD** ESC **4** DUNS **968814046**  
Address **5610 Morton Rd.** City **Katy** ZIP **TX** Phone **281-391-5003**  
Primary Contact **Anna H. Amboree** Email **aamboree@aristoi.classical.org** Phone **281-574-6104**  
Secondary Contact **Brenda Davidson** Email **bdavidson@aristoi.classical.org** Phone **281-574-6107**

**Certification and Incorporation**

I understand that this application constitutes an offer and, if accepted by TEA or renegotiated to acceptance, will form a binding agreement. I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and that the organization named above has authorized me as its representative to obligate this organization in a legally binding contractual agreement. I certify that any ensuing program and activity will be conducted in accordance and compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

I further certify my acceptance of the requirements conveyed in the following portions of the grant application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the grant application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant application, guidelines, and instructions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debarment and Suspension Certification      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Provisions and Assurances               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lobbying Certification                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application-specific Provisions and Assurances  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ESSA Provisions and Assurances requirements |

Authorized Official Name **Brenda Davidson** Title **Superintendent/Headmaster**

Email **bdavidson@aristoi.classical.org** Phone **281-574-6107**

Signature  Date **4-26-19**

Grant Writer Name **Anna H. Amboree** Signature  Date **4/26/19**

☒ Grant writer is an employee of the applicant organization. ☐ Grant writer is not an employee of the applicant organization.

RFA # **701-19-109** SAS # **440-20** **2019-2020 Charter School Program High-Quality Replication**

701-19-109-008

2019-10-28

**Shared Services Arrangements****X** SSAs are **not permitted** for this grant.**Identify/Address Needs**

List up to three quantifiable needs, as identified in your needs assessment, that these program funds will address. Describe your plan for addressing each need.

Quantifiable Need	Plan for Addressing Need
New campus personnel, students, and facilities.	Identify the number of regular education and specials teachers, Administrators staff and students. Market the new campus, advertise, interview and hire employees. Secure the lease, modify the facility and get a certificate with an "E" occupant code.
Furniture, Fixtures and equipment, IT, Materials and supplies.	Aristoi will bid on furniture, fixtures and equipment through lemons auctions, choice partners, and Green Standards. ERATE bids have been submitted for assistance with infrastructure. Instructional & Curriculum supplies will be ordered through Choice Partners or from vendors used at the Katy campus.
Professional Development Training/Curriculum	Aristoi will schedule the staff for professional development training on classical education and curriculum.

**SMART Goal**

Describe the summative SMART goal you have identified for this program (a goal that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely), either related to student outcome or consistent with the purpose of the grant.

Marketing campaign for the new campus and survey prospective parents in community by August 1, 2019. Negotiate and sign lease by November 30, 2019. Complete the enrollment process by 2/28/2020 to have 95% of the enrollment of students by June 1, 2020. Interview and Hire Administrative staff by March 1, 2020. Hire remaining teachers and support staff by May 31, 2020. Purchase of furniture, fixtures, equipment, software by June 1, 2020. Professional Development training on Classical Education and Curriculum scope and sequence by July 1, 2020.

**Measurable Progress**

Identify the benchmarks that you will use at the end of the first three grant quarters to measure progress toward meeting the process and implementation goals defined for the grant.

**First-Quarter Benchmark**

August 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019.

Ongoing marketing campaigns through local media, newspapers and websites to announce the opening of the new campus. Town Hall Community meetings will have begun and open houses for prospective parents to familiarize them with the new campus and answer any questions. Signed lease for the new campus. Building and fire permits have been issued and construction for modification of classrooms and office space will have begun. All positions for the new campus have been identified and posted with Region 4 ESC, Texas Charter Schools Association, Indeed and Aristoi's website.

**Measurable Progress (Cont.)****Second-Quarter Benchmark**

December 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020.

Open enrollment through electronic lottery system will have been completed the end of February 2020. Enrollment of 95% of the students and 100% of parents notified the first Wednesday in March. Wait lists have been cleared as positions became available and 98% of the seats filled by April 30, 2020.

The Headmaster for the new campus has been hired and 75% of the staff has been hired and has signed At-Will Agreements. Facilities will have been completed and certificate of occupancy obtained by March 31, 2020.

**Third-Quarter Benchmark**

May 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020.

100% of the curriculum will have been ordered by May 1, 2020.

100% of the positions have been filled and At-Will Agreements signed by June 30, 2020.

Two weeks of Professional Development training on Classical Education completed the last two weeks of July 2020.

All furniture and equipment has been purchased and delivered July 1, 2020. IT and phones installed July 2020.

100% of students' files from previous schools have been requested by August 1, 2020.

**Project Evaluation and Modification**

Describe how you will use project evaluation data to determine when and how to modify your program. If your benchmarks do not show progress towards meeting your summative SMART goal, describe how you will use evaluation data to modify your program for sustainability.

Aristoi's Administrative team will have a plan of action with time lines regarding the necessary items that need to be accomplished prior to August 1st. The team will meet weekly to get an update on the progress of the student enrollment, facilities, supplies, furniture and equipment. Professional development for Classical Education training and curriculum training will be done. We will follow up on the training and reteach any areas needed. Necessary modifications will be made in the areas of the facilities, training, ordering supplies, curriculum, etc. to meet our goal to serve students by August 2020.

If Curriculum has not been received by August 1, 2020 Aristoi will contact publishers for permission to copy delayed orders. If desired enrollment has not been achieved by May 1, 2020, Aristoi will do additional direct mailings in the nearby neighborhoods and run advertisements in area newspapers and magazines to achieve projected enrollment by June 30, 2020.

If the new campus facilities have not been completed by March 31, 2020 Aristoi will authorize contractors to work overtime to have completed by April 30, 2020.

**Statutory/Program Assurances**

The following assurances apply to this grant program. In order to meet the requirements of the grant, the grantee must comply with these assurances. Check each of the following boxes to indicate your compliance.

- ☒ 1. The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this grant will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.
- ☒ 2. The applicant provides assurance that the application does not contain any information that would be protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from general release to the public.
- ☒ 3. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all Statutory Requirements, TEA Program Requirements, and Performance Measures, as noted in the 2019–2020 Charter School Program High-Quality Replication Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide the Texas Education Agency, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the grant program.
- ☒ 4. The applicant provides assurance that their financial accounting system adheres to the following requirements:
- a. accommodates the minimum 15-digit account code mandated by the FASRG;
  - b. generates information needed for PEIMS reporting; and
  - c. ensures adequate accountability of state and federal funds.
- If the applicant's financial accounting system is not approved by TEA, the applicant assures that it will budget and acquire an acceptable accounting system and training with these grant funds. Additionally, the applicant will be required to submit proof of an acceptable accounting system prior to receiving continued and/or additional funding.
- ☒ 5. The applicant provides assurance that it will maintain clear documentation and data for the school and students served by this grant program, will comply with any reporting and evaluation requirements that may be established by the TEA, and will submit the reports in the format and manner requested by TEA's Division of Financial Compliance. Grantees will be required to cooperate with the team that has been contracted to evaluate the use of the grant funds.
- ☒ 6. The applicant provides assurance that it has on file a certificate of occupancy or the equivalent, for the instructional facility. At any time, should the TEA Charter School Administration Division request a copy, the applicant will provide such copy immediately.
- ☒ 7. According to Title IV, Part C of ESSA, to receive federal grant funds of any type, including U. S. Department of Education funds, the charter school must meet the following definition. By signing Attachment #1 and submitting the application, the authorized official of the public charter school certifies that each of the statements in the definition is true and that the school is in compliance with this definition. A charter school is not eligible to receive any federal funds at any time, formula or discretionary, from TEA if it does not comply with this definition.
- ☒ 8. **Open-enrollment charter holders applying on behalf of a high-quality campus approved by the commissioner of education:** The applicant provides assurance that the existing charter, as approved by the applicable state authorizer (the SBOE or the commissioner of education), and the Application for High-Quality Campus Designation, under which the new charter school campus was approved by the commissioner of education, are incorporated by reference into this grant application and address statutory requirements in compliance with PL 114-95, Title IV, Part C, ESSA.
- ☐ 9. **Charters established under TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C:** The applicant provides assurance that the campus charter school will:
- a. maintain documentation which clearly demonstrates the supplementary nature of these funds;
  - b. be established according to and in compliance with TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C, Sections 12.051-12.065;
  - c. be designated as a campus charter in the Texas Education Agency (TEA) organizational database, AskTED, prior to operating as a campus charter for the 2019-2020 school year; and
  - d. be permitted to govern autonomously, as evidenced by the day-to-day decision makers at the campus charter school and their input with regard to the school's curriculum, calendar, budget, and daily operations. This autonomy will be above and beyond the degree of flexibility and autonomy afforded to traditional campuses within the district. traditional campuses within the district.

**Statutory/Program Assurances**

The following assurances apply to this grant program. In order to meet the requirements of the grant, the grantee must comply with these assurances. Check each of the following boxes to indicate your compliance.

- ☐ 10. **Charters established under TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C:** The applicant provides assurance that, as per Title V, Part B, Subpart 1, Section 5204(f)(4)(B), the local education agency (LEA) will not deduct funds for administrative fees or expenses from a subgrant awarded to an eligible applicant, unless the eligible applicant enters voluntarily into a mutually agreed upon arrangement for administrative services with the relevant LEA. Absent such approval, the LEA shall distribute all subgrant funds to the eligible applicant without delay.
- ☐ 11. **Charters established under TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C:** The applicant provides assurance that the school district will:
- a. participate in the Texas Authorizer Leadership Academy (TALA) program;
  - b. review and adopt the Texas Education Agency's model Chapter 12, Subchapter C authorizer policies and charter application;
  - c. annually publish its authorizer policies;
  - d. submit its updated policies and charter application to TEA, along with the exact web address where this information is posted on the district's website, by October 1, 2019;
  - e. work with a high-quality charter management organization (CMO) or create an innovation management organization (IMO) that will have its own independent board, separate and apart from the school district's board of trustees, to oversee management of the originating campus and its replication; and
  - f. work with a high-quality charter management organization (CMO) or create an innovation management organization (IMO) that will have an Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer (CMO) who is responsible for management of the originating campus and its replication.

By certifying acceptance of and compliance with these provisions and assurances (11 a-f), the applicant further certifies that noncompliance with any of these provisions and assurances may result in forfeiture of participation in this grant program.

**Statutory Requirements**

1. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the eligible applicant, any partner organizations, and charter management organizations, as applicable, including the administrative and contractual roles and responsibilities of such partners.

Aristoi Classical Academy is a first-generation public charter school that opened in the fall of 1996. The school's mission is to provide students with an academically challenging classical liberal arts education that encourages them to develop a passion for learning and that gives them the means to become responsible citizens of virtuous character.

The Board of Directors of Aristoi Classical Academy provides oversight and leadership, direction, and assists with resources to provide for the needs of the school. The Board approves the Auditor and the Annual Financial Audit Report, the curriculum and performance standards for the school. Board Directors attend board training each year to comply with Texas Education Agency requirements and local, state and Federal laws. The Board has authorized the Superintendent to handle the day-to-day operations of the school.

The Board of Directors attends board meetings monthly to ensure the mission, vision and philosophy of the school are carried out.

2. Describe the quality controls agreed to between the eligible applicant and the authorized public chartering agency involved, such as a contract or performance agreement, how a school's performance in the state's accountability system and impact on student achievement (which may include student academic growth) will be one of the most important factors for renewal or revocation of the school's charter, and how TEA and the authorized public chartering agency involved will reserve the right to revoke or not renew a school's charter based on financial, structural, or operational factors involving the management of the school.

The quality controls agreed to between Aristoi Classical Academy and the Texas Education Agency are stated in the performance agreement submitted with the request for the High Quality Campus Designation. The academic performance objectives to be met by students attending Aristoi Classical Academy in the Greater Houston Area will strive to exceed the statewide averages and the school will achieve the Met Standard Accountability Rating.

Aristoi understands the school's performance in the state's accountability system and impact on student achievement (which may include student academic growth) will be one of the most important factors for renewal or revocation of the school's charter, and how TEA and the authorized public chartering agency involved will reserve the right to revoke or not renew a school's charter based on financial, structural, or operational factors involving the management of the school.

3. Describe how the autonomy and flexibility granted to the proposed charter school campus is consistent with the definition of a charter school in Section 4310, including how the proposed charter school campus will have a high degree of autonomy over budget and operations and personnel decisions. Include a detailed description of the ways in which the proposed charter school campus will be permitted to govern autonomously, as evidenced by the day-to-day decision makers at the campus and their input with regard to the school's curriculum, calendar, budget, and daily operations. For a charter school campus authorized by the local board of trustees pursuant to TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C, describe how this autonomy is above and beyond the degree of flexibility and autonomy afforded to traditional campuses within the school district.

The autonomy and flexibility granted to the proposed charter school campus is consistent with the definition of a charter school in Section 4310 and the proposed charter school campus. The Headmaster will have a high degree of autonomy over budget and operations and personnel decisions with the consultation of the Superintendent. The Headmaster oversees the teachers, team leaders and staff in carrying out the daily program requirements. The curriculum will be a replication of the classical education aligned to the TEKS taught at the other campuses. The Headmaster will be allowed to make adjustments to the curriculum based on student needs. Field trips and other activities for the school will be handled at the campus level. The new campus will have its own PTO.

**Statutory Requirements**

4. Describe how the eligible applicant will solicit and consider input from parents and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of the proposed charter school campus.

Below are some of the ways Aristoi Classical Academy will solicit and consider input from parents and other members in the community:

Aristoi will conduct open houses twice each year.

The Headmaster will conduct coffee Klatches with the parents.

Aristoi will conduct surveys from parents, faculty and staff.

Teachers will have their own websites to communicate with their students parents.

Aristoi's website will allow parents to communicate with faculty, staff and the Board of Directors.

Aristoi will have Parent Organizations and Booster Club at each campus.

5. Describe the eligible applicant's planned activities and expenditures of grant funds to open and prepare for the operation of the proposed high-quality charter school campus, and how the eligible applicant will maintain financial sustainability after the end of the grant period.

Aristoi's planned activities and expenditures of grant funds to open and prepare for the operation of the proposed high-quality charter school campus:

Complete the modification of classrooms and and ADA requirements and obtain certificate of occupancy

Purchase furniture and equipment including desks, chairs, software, IT for building, computers for classrooms and staff

Aristoi Classical Academy will maintain financial sustainability after the end of the grant period through the following ways:

State funding through FSP based on student enrollment and increased grade levels each year.

Federal Funding through Special Education, Title 1 and Title II.

Aristoi has hired a Development Director who will submit grant applications and have fundraising events. We are applying to the Charter School Growth Fund for a grant for the proposed new campus.

PTO organization at the proposed new campus will support the school financially and by volunteer efforts

6. Describe how the eligible applicant will support the use of effective parent, family, and community engagement strategies to operate the proposed charter school campus.

Open Houses - Aristoi will schedule open houses to communicate and get feedback from parents

Volunteers - Aristoi will ask for parent volunteers to support the school and its mission, vision and philosophy.

PTO - PTO will schedule movie nights, curriculum nights and fund raisers to support the school.

Community Involvement - Aristoi will involve local vendors, police, city and fire departments to participate in local activities at the school.

Parent Meetings - teachers will meet with parents to update them on their child's progress and assist in their child's education.

Parent Compact - a commitment from the parents to participate in their child's education.

**Statutory Requirements**

7. Describe the eligible applicant's plan for meeting the transportation needs of the students at the proposed charter school campus.

Parents who are interested in car pools will make their information available to parents who need transportation. Aristoi will review the need for bus transportation to students who live more than seven miles from the proposed campus.

8. Describe and justify any requests for waivers of any Federal statutory or regulatory provisions that the eligible applicant believes are necessary for the successful operation of the charter school, and a description of any state or local rules, generally applicable to public schools, that the applicant proposes to be waived or otherwise not apply to the school.

Aristoi is not requesting any waivers.

**TEC, Subchapter C, Campus Charter Schools, must address the following requirement (#9):**

9. Describe the educational program of the existing high-quality charter school that the district has partnered with at the proposed charter school campus, including a) how the program will enable all students to meet challenging state student academic achievement standards; b) the grade levels or ages of children to be served; and c) the curriculum and instructional practices to be used. Provide reference to relevant program-related attachments, including page numbers, where necessary.



**Statutory Requirements**

**TEC, Subchapter C, Campus Charter Schools, must address the following requirements listed below (#10 - #13):**

10. Describe how the district authorizer will monitor the proposed charter school campus in recruiting, enrolling, retaining, and meeting the needs of all students, including children with disabilities and English learners. Provide reference to relevant program-related attachments, including page numbers, where necessary.

11. Describe the manner in which an annual independent financial audit of the campus is to be conducted. The campus charter must have a plan for an audit that is separate and apart from the district's annual financial audit. Provide reference to relevant program-related attachments, including page numbers, where necessary.

12. Describe the manner in which the campus will provide information necessary for the school district in which it is located to participate, as required by TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C, or by SBOE rule, in public education information systems (PEIMS). Provide reference to relevant program-related attachments, including page numbers, where necessary.

13. Describe the manner in which the district will flow other federal and state funds to the proposed charter school campus. Describe the timelines for flowing the federal and state funds to the campus that will ensure students are promptly receiving the benefit of services that appropriate federal and state funds can provide. Provide reference to relevant program-related attachments, including page numbers, where necessary.

**TEA Program Requirements**

1. Provide the number of students in each grade, by type of school, projected to be served under the grant program in 2019–2020.

Charter School Type	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Not Applicable - No students will be served during the 2019–2020 school year. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>															
Total Staff		Total Parents		Total Families		Total Campuses									

2. Provide the number of students in each grade, by type of school, projected to be served under the grant program in 2020–2021.

Charter School Type	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
State-Authorized		66	66	44	25	25									226
Total Staff	22	Total Parents		Total Families		Total Campuses									

3. Provide the number of students to be served in 2019–2020 who would otherwise attend a school identified as an *Improvement Required* campus (from the most recent accountability ratings) that serves the same grade levels as the proposed charter school. Please click on the *All Campuses by Rating* link available at <https://tea.texas.gov/2018accountability.aspx> for more information.

Charter School Type	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Not Applicable - No students will be served during the 2019–2020 school year. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>															
Total Staff		Total Parents		Total Families		Total Campuses									

4. Provide the names and nine-digit county/district/campus numbers of the campuses identified as an *Improvement Required* campus (from the most recent accountability ratings) that serves the same grade levels as the proposed charter school that you will be impacting as described above. Please click on the *All Campuses by Rating* link available at <https://tea.texas.gov/2018accountability.aspx> for more information.

#	District Name	Campus Name	9 Digit CDC Number
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
Not Applicable - No students will be served during the 2019–2020 school year. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

**5. TEC, Subchapter C, Campus Charter Schools (check all that apply):**

- ☐ a. The school district is currently participating in the Texas Authorizer Leadership Academy (TALA) and/or the System of Great Schools (SGS) Network.
- ☐ b. The school district board of trustees will establish a separate, independent operator board to oversee charter school replication activities within the district.

Equitable Access and Participation

Check the appropriate box below to indicate whether any barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups that receive services funded by this grant.

- ☒
 The applicant assures that no barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups receiving services funded by this grant.
- ☐
 Barriers exist to equitable access and participation for the following groups receiving services funded by this grant, as described below.

Group		Barrier	
Group		Barrier	
Group		Barrier	
Group		Barrier	

PNP Equitable Services

X

 PNP Equitable Services **does not apply** to this grant.

**Request for Grant Funds**

List all of the allowable grant-related activities for which you are requesting grant funds. Include the amounts budgeted for each activity. Group similar activities and costs together under the appropriate heading. During negotiation, you will be required to budget your planned expenditures on a separate attachment provided by TEA.

**Total Planning Activity Costs** (refinement of the desired educational results and the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results and professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school)

\$50,000

**Total Implementation Activity Costs** (informing the community about the school, acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies, acquiring or developing curriculum materials, and other initial operational costs that cannot be met from state or local sources)

\$350,000

**Total Planning Activity Costs + Total Implementation Activity Costs**  
(This amount should match TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST)

\$400,000

**PAYROLL COSTS (6100)****BUDGET**

Administrative and support staff

\$40,000

**PROFESSIONAL AND CONTRACTED SERVICES (6200)**

TXeis software and IT Support

\$90,000

Professional Development - Classical Philosophy, Curriculum and Love and Logic Training

\$10,000

Modifications to Building/ADA/Classrooms

\$50,000

**SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS (6300)**

Curriculum and Instructional Supplies

\$80,000

Student desks, chairs, teacher desks, computers,

\$80,000

**OTHER OPERATING COSTS (6400)****CAPITAL OUTLAY (6600)**

Play Ground Equipment

\$50,000

**TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST** \$400,000